

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 20-23, 28-30, 33, and 34, under §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication US 2003/0140694 to Usui et al. (hereinafter Usui '694). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Usui '694 is not proper prior art to claims 20-23, 28-30, 33, and 34, of the present application.

As noted in the attached Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, the subject matter of claims 20-23, 28-30, 33, and 34, was invented by Minoru USUI, Kenji TSUKADA, and Munehide KANAYA, the same inventive entity as Usui '694. The three foregoing inventors together with Noboru TAMURA have invented the subject matter of claims 24-27, 31, and 32, as set forth in the present application. That is, the specific arrangement of the circuit segment such as type of transistor or FET, amplifiers, or other signals as recited in claims 24-27, 31, and 32, were the product of contribution by Minoru USUI, Kenji TSUKADA, Munehide KANAYA, and Noboru TAMURA, whereas the general or broad concept of a circuit segment was invented by Minoru USUI, Kenji TSUKADA, and Munehide KANAYA.

In light of the above, this rejection is believed to be in error, and should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 24-27, 31, and 32, would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, because of the belief that all the claims are allowable over the cited art, Applicants have not rewritten claims 24-27, 31, and 32, in independent form at this time.

Conclusion


In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
US Appln. 10/662,397

Atty. Docket: Q77369

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey A. Schmidt
Registration No. 41,574

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 17, 2004